

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 19, 2007

7:30 P.M. – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Brian Walsh. Present were: Brian Walsh, Chairman; Katherine Connolly, Vice Chairman; Bill Baschnagel, Selectman; Peter Christie, Selectman and Julia Griffin, Town Manager. Absent: Allegra Lubrano, Selectman.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PRE-TOWN MEETING PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED WARRANT.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the recommendation to set a pre-town meeting public hearing on April 2, 2007 to consider the proposed warrant. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PRE-TOWN PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED WARRANT.

3. RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2007-2008 BUDGET FOR THE HOUSING FUND.

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the recommendation to set a public hearing on April 2, 2007 to consider and approve the proposed FY2007-2008 budget for the housing fund. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2007-2008 BUDGET FOR THE HOUSING FUND.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO AFFIRM THE ADOPTED FY2007-2008 BUDGET.

Chairman Walsh noted that the Board went through the budget meetings four nights in a row. Vice Chairman Connolly confirmed that money was being set aside for the Marshall Lot landscaping. Selectman Baschnagel confirmed the information on the Fire District Tax. Ms. McClain clarified the adjustments that were presented in the information.

Chairman Walsh asked about the Kids and Cops Program and the reduction noted for that item. Ms. Griffin noted that there has been a decrease in participation in the event and therefore a decrease in revenue and less expense.

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to affirm the adopted FY 2007-2008 budget. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AFFIRM THE ADOPTED FY 2007-2008 BUDGET.

5. UPDATE ON THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER WORKING GROUP ON THE NH RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Ms. Griffin noted that Ms. McClain was a staff representative at a briefing that was put on by the Local Government Center and the Legislative Committee of the LGC about a week ago and she brought back the information that was provided to the Board in the Friday packets.

The information outlines the key issues and background about the Employer and Employee Working Group that has been meeting since last summer. They were tasked with understanding what the issues are facing the retirement system and to come up with a set of recommendations. The proposal was heard today as part of House Bill 653 before the Executive Department and Administration Committee in the House. Ms. Griffin attended along with other managers and representatives from the Local Government Center and other groups that participated in the Working Group in addition to Union representatives and police associations.

Ms. Griffin reported that the hearing went well but it was her feeling that they may not approve the bill but retain it and then send it off to a study committee. The employers are concerned because to the extent the system is under funded, they can expect continued hefty increases.

Selectman Baschnagel asked what the current estimate was for the unfunded liability. Ms. Griffin advised that it is \$3 billion dollars based on the latest actuarial reports. She believes that the lion's share of that amount might be the

retirement system special account but she hasn't seen the numbers to determine if that is the case.

Chairman Walsh feels that this is a problem that none of the citizens and taxpayers in the State know that we have. He feels that the Local Government Center needs to educate the public as to what this looks like and where it's heading.

Ms. Griffin sent a letter stating that this is the biggest issue facing the Legislature today. Selectman Baschnagel noted that one of the recommendations is to eliminate the Special Account and adopt a standard benefit, COLA 2% per year. He noted that the 2% is less than the Special Account right now. Ms. Griffin feels that it was the creation of the Special Account that created the problem for the Retirement System. For example, employees in Group 1 could argue that when their money, when it earns more than a certain percentage, it's going into a Special Account in Group 2. She was surprised that Group 1 employees haven't begun to protest this issue.

Chairman Walsh noted that it's very difficult to have a conversation about this that lets the Town balance equitably between the taxpayer's interest and the municipal employees.

Ms. Griffin noted that the theme at the hearing on the part of the more outspoken Unions was that this is the employee's money and that employer's don't have the right to meddle in the management of the Retirement System.

Chairman Walsh noted that this speaks to the defined contribution plan. Ms. Griffin felt that as long as employers (i.e. taxpayers) are contributing to the system, they should have more than one seat at the table. The LGC is trying to get one management representative on the Board and that House Bill is likely to be killed.

Chairman Walsh would like to express to the colleagues of the Local Government Center that the Hanover Select Board thinks that the task of making the position known and understandable to the citizens and the property taxpayers of the State aware of this and that the Board is willing to help in some way to do that.

Ms. Griffin feels that engaging as many people as possible. The impact of trying to fix an ever worsening problem is going to fall squarely on the property taxpayers' shoulders.

Vice Chairman Connolly wanted the taxpayers to realize just how unbalanced the system is and if it does continue it will directly affect them. The variance between Group 1 and 2 is considerable.

Ms. Griffin felt that the Town could put information out to the taxpayers with the Town Report to educate them as to how this may affect them and then share the information handed out with the LGC to try to customize it for wider distribution.

6. BANNER REQUESTS

- CHaD/The Family Place – Shield our Children from Harm
- StreetFest (Including Street Closure)
- Ledyard Bridge Banners – Communities United for Climate Action Now

Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to approve the Banner Requests from CHaD/The Family Place and StreetFest. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUESTS FROM CHaD/THE FAMILY PLACE AND STREETFEST.

Chairman Walsh discussed the request for banners on the Ledyard Bridge and the concerns about setting a precedent by doing this even though he is not against the organization behind the request.

Chairman Walsh MOVED to vote against approving the Ledyard Bridge banner request. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST APPROVING BANNERS ON THE LEDYARD BRIDGE.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 27, 2007

Chairman Walsh deferred the approval of the Minutes of February 27th until Selectman Lubrano is back.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Griffin advised that they are working to get the Town Report done and off to the printer by the first week of April.

9. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Peter Christie

Selectman Christie had nothing to report.

Kate Connolly

Vice Chairman Connolly reported that she attended a meeting about the Route 120 Corridor and she feels that they are at the point where they will start crunching numbers.

Bill Baschnagel

Selectman Baschnagel reported that the Conservation Commission met and talked about a request from the Town to approve a space for replacing the pump station and the committee declined to approve it at this point. The grant had specific wording that they had concerns with and felt it needed further review.

With regard to the Route 120 Committee, there is traffic data on the corridor but they don't have recent or up-to-date source of destination traffic data and they were discussing speaking with RSG (Resource Systems Group) to get an updated traffic base.

Selectman Baschnagel met again with the Chambers Parking Survey Group and they are looking to put together a simple parking survey for the businesses in Town to get their opinions on how they view the parking and what they feel the problem areas are.

Brian Walsh

Chairman Walsh had nothing new to report.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 P.M.

SUMMARY

1. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the recommendation to set a pre-town meeting public hearing on April 2, 2007 to consider the proposed warrant. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PRE-TOWN PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED WARRANT.

2. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to accept the recommendation to set a public hearing on April 2, 2007 to consider and approve the proposed FY2007-2008 budget for the housing fund. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 2, 2007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2007-2008 BUDGET FOR THE HOUSING FUND.

3. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to affirm the adopted FY 2007-2008 budget. Selectman Christie SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO AFFIRM THE ADOPTED FY 2007-2008 BUDGET.

4. **Selectman Baschnagel MOVED to approve the Banner Requests from CHaD/The Family Place and StreetFest. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BANNER REQUESTS FROM CHaD/THE FAMILY PLACE AND STREETFEST.

5. **Chairman Walsh MOVED to vote against approving the Ledyard Bridge banner request. Vice Chairman Connolly SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST APPROVING BANNERS ON THE LEDYARD BRIDGE.

6. **Vice Chairman Connolly MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Baschnagel SECONDED the motion.**

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 P.M.